

REMARKS

Claim 1 was rejected under Section 103 based on Edwards in view of Abdel-Mottaleb. It is indicated that Abdel-Mottaleb teaches removing flesh color from captured video. In fact, Abdel-Mottaleb does the opposite. He removes everything but flesh color from captured video.

For example, in column 3, lines 31-37, he explains that pixels that are skin colored are grouped from the rest of the image. Anything that is deemed not to be skin colored is removed from consideration as a potential face candidate. In other words, Abdel-Mottaleb is trying to find skin colored pixels and, to do so, he removes from consideration other pixels. The pixels on the edges are removed from consideration. See column 3, starting at line 60. These edge pixels are pixels around flesh colored pixels and do not include the flesh colored pixels themselves. As explained at line 62, the removal is accomplished by taking the skin colored pixel and calculating the variance in the pixels around the skin colored pixels. In other words, the pixels that are removed are the ones around the skin colored pixels, not the skin colored pixels.

Since, if anything, Abdel-Mottaleb teaches away from the claimed invention, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance. On a similar analysis, claims 2-7, dependent thereon, and claim 8, and its dependent claims, should be in condition for allowance. For the same reasons, claim 14 and its dependent claims should be in condition for allowance.

Concerning the rejection of claim 18, it is indicated that Ippolito teaches “determining the user’s position using said captured video image of said speaker.” The rejection cites column 1, lines 64-67, which seems to be uninforming. It also cites column 2, lines 1-4. However, just before the cited material, in column 3, line 65, through column 4, line 2, it is explained that audio information captured by the radial array of microphones is electronically processed such that the principal speaker is continuously identified. Thus, the video image is not utilized to determine the position, but, instead, the audio information is used to locate the speaker. Then, it is stated that once the principal speaker is identified, the camera is positioned through electromechanical means such that the image of the principal speaker becomes accurately captured. But this does not indicate anything about using video to do the locating of the principal speaker. Farther down in column 4, the language is even more explicit with respect to a second embodiment while also referring to the first embodiment. There it is stated that, as in the first embodiment, audio

information that is captured by the circular array of microphones “is used to determine the approximate azimuthal location of a principal speaker.” See column 4, lines 13-16.

Thus, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 calls for a video capture device to capture an image of a user. It also calls for at least one microphone to capture speech from the user. Then, it calls for a device to determine the user’s position with respect to at least two microphones and to adjust the data from each microphone in response to the user’s position relative to each microphone, using the image captured by the video capture device.

The only explanation of the rejection of claim 2 is that it is analyzed similarly to claim 18. But, again, Ippolito does not teach using the image captured by the video capture device to adjust the data from each microphone in response to the user’s position relative to each microphone.

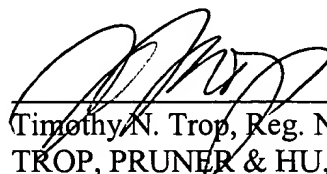
In connection with the rejection of claim 18, it is indicated that, based on the user’s position, a characteristic of the microphone is adjusted, citing column 3, lines 28-32. However, there is no use of video in this operation. Moreover, there is no discussion of adjusting data from each of two microphones in response to the user’s position relative to each microphone.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 23 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of these remarks, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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